

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05091 160652Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OES-06 HEW-04
/043 W
-----160701Z 106816 /21/13
R 110704Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2579

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT PARA 4

FOLG RECD AS ACTION DELHI INFO CALCUTTA, MADRAS
DATED APRIL 7, 1977 BEING REPT FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0827

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SPOP IN
SUBJ: BOMBAY "TEMPORARILY" ENDS FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITY

1. THE BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION HAS ORDERED THE "TEMPORARY" CLOSING OF ALL FAMILY PLANNING MOTIVATION BOOTHS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.
2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE ON APRIL 6 BY DR D.N.PAI, WHOSE MANY TITLES INCLUDE DIRECTOR OF FAMILY PLANNING OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. PAI STATED TO THE PRESS THAT THE REASON FOR THE CLOSURE WAS THAT THE MOTIVATORS WERE UNWILLING TO WORK IN THE FIELD FOR "FEAR OF PUBLIC WRATH". PV DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY COMPULSION IN THE BOMBAY STERILIZATION PROGRAM AND SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD UNDERGONE STERILIZATION FOR MONETARY GAIN

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LATER ALLEGED THAT THEY HAD BEEN FORCIBLY STERILIZED.

COMMENT

3. PAI SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US THAT WHILE THE CLOSURE WAS DESCRIBED TEMPORARY, HE WOULD NOT PREDICT WHEN, OR EVEN IF, THE FAMILY PLANNING MOTIVATION CENTERS (WHICH OFFERED CURBSIDE VASECTOMIES)

WOULD REOPEN. HE WAS FRANKLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF
LARGE-SCALE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM IN INDIA.

4. WE HAVE TO SHARE DR PAI'S PESSIMISM. THE CLOSURE OF THE BOMBAY
MUNICIPAL CENTERS ENDS AN EFFORT THAT FIRST BEGAN IN 1925, AND IN
MANY WAYS WAS A MODEL IN THE FIELD. NOR HAVE WE ANY REASON TO
EXPECT THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA TO CONTINUE ITS PREVIOUS WIDE-
SCALE EFFORTS IN THE FIELD, EVEN THOUGH ABUSES WERE MINIMAL HEL
UNDER THE EMERGENCY AND THE STERILIZATION CAMPAIGN WAS NOT EVEN
AN ELECTION ISSUE IN MAHARASHTRA. AS WE REPORTED (A-52, SEP 22,
1976) GOM MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS AT THAT TIME WERE
EXTREMELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING BECAUSE THE PROGRAM
HAD BEEN GIVEN THE POLITICAL SUPPORT AND IMPETUS NEEDED FOR A
TRULY MASSIVE EFFORT. THAT SUPPORT, OF COURSE, ENDED ON MARCH 21
AND WHILE EFFORTS IN THE FIELD WILL CONTINUE IN MAHARASHTRA, WE
WOULD HAZARD THAT FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE WILL BE
EXTREMELY LOW-KEYED FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.
COURTNEY UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: FAMILY PLANNING, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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